GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3679
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
VIOLATION OF FOOD LAWS BY FOREIGN IMPORTERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several incidents of violation of food laws by foreign importers have been reported during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; State-wise and territory-wise; and

(c) the action taken to check such type of violations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a) & (b): Year-wise number of samples of imported items found not conforming to the requirement under PFA Act, 1954, as made available for 1999, 2000 and 2001 by Central Food Laboratories are as under :-

Year	No. of Samples found not conforming
1999	549
2000	797
2001	359

This information is not maintained State-wise or territory-wise.

(c): The import of food products are regulated as per the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 of the PFA Act, 1954. The Custom Officer may detain the consignment of food and draw the sample and get it analyzed in Central Food Laboratory to assess the quality of such food as per the provision contained under PFA Act and Rules made there under.

The Ministry of Health has initiated number of measures to sensitize the various agencies dealing with the import of food as well as the importers/traders.

Sensitization training programmes were organized at the ports of Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai and Cochin on 30.05.2001, 14.06.2001, 20.06.2001 and 23.06.2001, respectively. In these training programmes, Officers and Staff of Customs, Port and Airport Health Organizations, Importers, Custom House Clearing Agents and Trade Organizations participated.

Experts from Ministry of Health, DGHS, Ministry of Finance, Department of Consumer Affairs, Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industries (CIFTI), a subsidiary body of FICCI and Confederation of Indian Industries, explained the various provisions of different laws relevant to the import of food products and replied to the queries raised on the subject during the sensitization programme.

Ministry of Commerce has issued a notification making provisions that all imported food products shall meet the requirement as prescribed under PFA Act and Rules made there under. Accordingly, all the products imported are being analyzed before release for human consumption. The laboratories analyzing the samples are checking the labelling provisions in addition to chemical analysis of food samples.

Department of Food Processing Industries have released advertisement in National newspapers to create awareness among the consumers regarding labelling requirements of imported food products.